IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 20-23, 26, 28, 31 and 32.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled to the at least one processor;

a network interface coupled to the at least one processor, the network interface coupling the computer system to a plurality of other computer systems via a network;

an object oriented framework mechanism residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor, the framework mechanism comprising a cloning mechanism that replicates configuration data for a model computer system to at least one of the plurality of other computer systems, wherein the cloning mechanism comprises a first portion that cannot be modified by a user and a second portion that is extensible by the user, and wherein:

the first portion comprises a model class that defines a model object that corresponds to the model computer system and that contains the configuration data for the model computer system;

the second portion comprises a system aspect class that defines at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute of a computer system; and

the configuration data in the model object comprises a collection of system aspect objects.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the [model object comprises] configuration data [[that]] is defined by a user using a graphical user interface.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[3]] 1 wherein the [model object comprises] configuration data [[that]] corresponds to configuration data in a selected one of the plurality of other computer systems that is selected by a user.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[6]] 1 wherein the at least one attribute is selected from the group comprising:

user IDs, file system, database, network configuration, environment variables, software products, fixes, hardware, and performance controls.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim [[2]] 1 wherein the first portion further comprises a system replicator class that defines at least one system replicator object that compares the configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one of the plurality of other computer systems, and that replicates the configuration data from the model object to the at least one of the plurality of other computer systems.

10. (Original) A computer system comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled to the at least one processor;

an object oriented framework mechanism residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor, the framework mechanism comprising:

at least one object oriented model class that cannot be modified by a user, the model class defining at least one model object that defines configuration data for a model computer system;

at least one system aspect class that is extensible by a user, the system aspect class defining at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute of a computer system, wherein the configuration data in the model object comprises a collection of system aspect objects; and

at least one system replicator class that cannot be modified by a user, the system replicator class defining at least one system replicator object that compares the configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one selected computer system, and that replicates the configuration data from the model object to the at least one selected computer system.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for changing the configuration of at least one selected computer system on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) providing an object oriented framework mechanism comprising a cloning mechanism that replicates configuration data for a model computer system to at least one selected computer system, wherein the cloning mechanism comprises a first portion that cannot be modified by a user and a second portion that is extensible by the user, and wherein:

the first portion comprises a model class that defines a model object that corresponds to the model computer system and that contains the configuration data for the model computer system;

the second portion comprises a system aspect class that defines at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute of a computer system; and

the configuration data in the model object comprises a collection of system aspect objects;

(2) extending at least one extensible portion of the framework mechanism to define the at least one system aspect object for each selected computer system;

(3) executing the extended framework mechanism;

(4) defining configuration data for a model computer system; and

(5) the executing framework mechanism updating configuration data for each selected computer system according to the defined configuration data for the model computer system.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the executing framework mechanism compares the configuration data for each selected computer system with the defined configuration data for the model computer system to determine for which selected computer system step (5) is required.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein step (4) comprises the step of a user defining the at least one system aspect object using a graphical user interface.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein step (4) comprises the step of a user selecting one computer system on the network as the model computer system, wherein the configuration data for the selected one computer system is the source of configuration data for the model computer system.

15. (Original) A method for changing the configuration of at least one selected computer system on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

(1) providing an object oriented framework mechanism comprising:

(1A) a model class that cannot be modified by a user, the model class defining at least one model object that defines configuration data for a model computer system;

(1B) a system aspect class that is extensible by a user, the system aspect class defining at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute of a computer system, wherein the configuration data in the model object comprises a collection of system aspect objects; and

(1C) a system replicator class that cannot be modified by a user, the system replicator class defining at least one system replicator object that compares the configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one selected computer system, and that replicates the configuration data from the model object to the at least one selected computer system;

(2) extending the system aspect class of the framework mechanism to define at least one system aspect for each selected computer system;

(3) executing the extended framework mechanism;

(4) defining configuration data for a model computer system; and

(5) the executing framework mechanism updating configuration data for each selected computer system according to configuration data in the model object.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the executing framework mechanism compares the configuration data for each selected computer system with the defined configuration data for the model computer system to determine for which selected computer system step (5) is required.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein step (4) comprises the step of a user defining at least one system aspect using a graphical user interface.

18. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein step (4) comprises the step of a user selecting one computer system on the network as the model computer system, wherein the configuration data for the selected one computer system is the source of configuration data for the model computer system.

19. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising:

(1) an object oriented framework mechanism comprising a cloning mechanism that replicates configuration data for a model computer system to at least one of the plurality of other computer systems, wherein the cloning mechanism comprises a first portion that cannot be modified by a user and a second portion that is extensible by the user, and wherein:

the first portion comprises a model class that defines a model object that corresponds to the model computer system and that contains the configuration data for the model computer system;

the second portion comprises a system aspect class that defines at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute of a computer system; and

the configuration data in the model object comprises a collection of system aspect objects; and

(2) recordable computer readable signal bearing media bearing the framework mechanism.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim [[23]] 19 wherein the [model object comprises] configuration data [[that]] is defined by a user using a graphical user interface.

25. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim [[23]] 19 wherein the [model object comprises] configuration data [[that]] corresponds to configuration data in a selected one of the plurality of other computer systems that is selected by a user.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim [[26]] 19 wherein the at least one attribute is selected from the group comprising:

user IDs, file system, database, network configuration, environment variables, software products, fixes, hardware, and performance controls.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The program product of claim [[22]] 19 wherein the first portion comprises a system replicator class that defines at least one system replicator object that compares the configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one of the plurality of other computer systems, and that replicates the configuration data from the model object to the at least one of the plurality of other computer systems.

30. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising:

(1) an object oriented framework mechanism comprising:

(1A) at least one object oriented model class that cannot be modified by a user, the model class defining at least one model object that defines configuration data for a model computer system;

(1B) at least one system aspect class that is extensible by a user, the system aspect class defining at least one system aspect object that defines at least one attribute of a computer system, wherein the configuration data in the model object comprises a collection of system aspect objects; and

(1C) at least one system replicator class that cannot be modified by a user, the system replicator class defining at least one system replicator object that compares the configuration data in the model object to configuration data from at least one selected computer system, and that replicates the configuration data from the model object to the at least one selected computer system; and

(2) recordable computer readable signal bearing media bearing the framework mechanism.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-32 were originally filed in this patent application. In the pending office action, claims 19-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1-20 and 22-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,838,918 to Prager *et al.* (hereinafter "Prager"). No claim was allowed. In this amendment, claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 20-23, 26, 28, 31 and 32 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 19, 24, 25, 27, 29 and 30 have been amended. Claims 10, 12, and 14-18 remain unchanged. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9-19, 24, 25, 27, 29 and 30 are currently pending.